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AGRICULTURE

# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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CONTENTS

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PAGE

## COTTON

U. S. Cotton Imports Higher .....	25
U. S. Cotton Linters Exports Up in December .....	25
U. S. Cotton Linters Imports Up in December .....	25
Dutch Import Less Cotton .....	29
Spain Produces Less Cotton in 1957-58 .....	31
India Authorizes Cotton Futures Trading at Akola and Ahmedabad .....	32

## DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Danish Eggs and Poultry Gain in Quantity and Quality .....	4
Denmark To Offer Cold Storage Butter on Domestic Market .....	5
Venezuela Changes Dry Whole Milk Import Requirements .....	5
Danish Butter Exports Continue To Decline .....	5
Finland To Build New Dry Milk Factory .....	6
West German Egg Imports and Consumption Rise .....	6
French Butter Exports Higher .....	7
U. K. Broiler Industry Grows .....	7
Egg Production Increases in Canada .....	7

## FATS, OILSEEDS, AND OILS

Antarctic Whale Catch Slow in 1957-58 .....	19
India Releases Peanut Oilcake for Export .....	20
Severe Drought Hurts Philippine Coconuts .....	20
Pacific Islands Copra Enters World Market .....	20
U. S. Edible Oil Exports Down 40 Percent From Year Ago .....	22
U. S. Imports of Olive Oil Up in 1957 .....	24
U. S. Palm Oil Imports Drop Sharply; Palm Kernel Oil Imports Up .....	28

## FOREIGN TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

Japan's Trade Deficit With U. S. Over \$1 Billion in 1957 .....	8
Soviet Trade Delegation Visits Colombia .....	11
Yugoslav Trade Mission Visits Brazil .....	15
Colombia Freezes Prices of Foodstuffs at November Levels .....	16
Colombia Takes New Credit and Import Deposit Measures .....	17
Free Import Zone Established in Northern Chile .....	17

(Continued on following page)

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## CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

## FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

Israel Restricts Domestic Citrus Consumption . . . . .	8
West Germany Announces Import Tender for Canned Asparagus . . . . .	10
Capetown Fire Diverts Export Fruit to Canning and Drying . . . . .	12
Argentine Dried Peach and Pear Production Down Sharply . . . . .	12
North American Apple Exports Double Those Last Year . . . . .	27
Iraqi Date Estimate Raised . . . . .	30

## GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, FEEDS, AND SEEDS

Mexico Has Smaller Rice Crop Than Expected . . . . .	21
Philippine Republic Buys Rice From Vietnam and Cambodia . . . . .	22
Pakistan To Export High Quality Rice . . . . .	22

## LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS

Argentine Cattle Numbers Drop . . . . .	13
Australian Wool Prices Weaken . . . . .	13
West German Imports of Livestock and Livestock Products To Drop in 1958 . . . . .	13
Japanese Beef Imports To Drop . . . . .	14
South African Commercial Livestock Slaughter Heavier . . . . .	14
Livestock Numbers in U.S.S.R. Rise Sharply . . . . .	15
Ireland To Export Fewer Cattle . . . . .	16
Egyptian Livestock Imports Decline . . . . .	18
French Hog Numbers Rise . . . . .	18

## SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Chile Prohibits Sugar Exports . . . . .	8
Damage to Cuban Sugar Industry From Rebel Action Continues . . . . .	9
Thailand Controls Sugar Imports . . . . .	9
Uganda Experiments in Cocoa Growing . . . . .	9
Dedicate Ivory Coast Coffee and Cocoa Treating Plant . . . . .	9
Sugar Again Taxed in Honduras . . . . .	9
Cuba Allocates 1958-Crop Blackstrap for Local Use . . . . .	10
Australian Flax Fiber Industry Maintained . . . . .	11
Colombian Coffee Federation Establishes Minimum Price . . . . .	21
Ethiopia Establishes National Coffee Board . . . . .	27

## TOBACCO

Greek Government Enters Market To Bolster Tobacco Prices . . . . .	3
Yugoslavia Pushing Exports of Macedonian Leaf Tobacco . . . . .	3
India Expects Larger 1957-58 Tobacco Crop . . . . .	3
Sumatra Tobacco Produced in Italy . . . . .	3
Netherlands Increases Sales Tax on Cigarettes . . . . .	4
Pakistan Expects Larger Flue-Cured Crop in 1958 . . . . .	4

## GREEK GOVERNMENT ENTERS TOBACCO MARKET TO BOLSTER PRICES

The Greek Government has announced a number of programs aimed at alleviating problems arising from the marketing of the record 1957 tobacco crop. The 1957 harvest is now placed at 239.4 million pounds.

The programs undertaken by the government include: loans up to 90 percent of the purchase price to merchants buying at least 10 percent more tobacco than they did last year; reduction of interest rate from 9 to 4 percent after May 31 on loans covering tobacco still held by merchants at that time (subject to a ceiling set at 20 percent of total purchases); government purchases of all low-grade tobaccos selling at less than 6 drachmas per oka (7.1 U. S. cents per pound); and government purchases of medium grades to keep prices from dropping.

## YUGOSLAVIA PUSHING EXPORTS OF MACEDONIAN LEAF TOBACCO

Yugoslavia's present plans are said to call for the export of 33 million pounds of leaf tobacco from Macedonia in 1958, or about double 1957 exports. The largest quantity is expected to be shipped to the United States (Prilep type), with lesser quantities to the Soviet Union, France, Czechoslovakia, and West Germany.

The 1957 harvest of Macedonian leaf amounted to a record 59.5 million pounds. About one-half of the crop has been purchased from growers, but lack of adequate storage space poses a serious problem.

## INDIA EXPECTS LARGER 1957-58 TOBACCO CROP

The 1957-58 tobacco crop in India is forecast at 694.4 million pounds from 1,030,000 acres, compared with the 1956-57 harvest of 685.4 million from 1,022,000 acres. Flue-cured production is placed at 135 million pounds, 3 million more than in 1956-57. Combined production of all other types is estimated about 1 percent larger than in 1956-57.

## SUMATRA TOBACCO PRODUCED IN ITALY

It is reported that a European tobacco firm, in cooperation with Italian tobacco producers, is growing Sumatra-type cigar tobacco in Italy. The 1957 crop of about 2,500 bales is expected to be offered for sale at Milan, Italy, in May. Sumatra leaf reportedly is being grown on farms in the Po River Valley and in Umbria.



# NETHERLANDS INCREASES SALES TAX ON CIGARETTES

The Dutch Government has increased the sales tax on cigarettes from 5 to 7 percent. The new rate, effective on February 10, 1958, was set by the government as part of its program to reduce consumption and thus improve its balance-of-payments position.

Total Dutch taxes on cigarettes are now 69 percent of the retail price--62 percent excise and 7 percent sales. The increase in the retail prices that will likely result from the 2 percent sales tax rise is not yet known. It is now reported that competition may prevent any increase for certain brands; however, some brands are expected to increase by the equivalent of 1.3 to 2.6 U. S. cents per package of 20.

# PAKISTAN EXPECTS LARGER FLUE-CURED CROP IN 1958

The 1958 flue-cured tobacco crop in Pakistan is expected to be about 11.5 million pounds, compared with 10.5 million in 1957. Total production of tobacco in 1958 is expected to be about 237 million pounds, slightly larger than the 1957 crop, with no significant increases or decreases in the major types grown.

Forecasts of a slight increase in cigarette output, from 5.7 billion pieces in 1957 to 6.0 billion in 1958, will not stimulate larger crops of cigarette leaf as the rapidly expanding cigarette manufacture did in recent years. Slackening demand from cigarette manufacturers has already been reflected in lower prices paid for tobacco in 1957.

# DANISH EGGS AND POULTRY GAIN IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY

Denmark produced 195 million dozen eggs in 1957, about the same as in 1956. Of 142 million dozen exported, 64 percent went to West Germany. The quality of Danish eggs has improved and their export value enhanced through production and packing regulations and the stamping of eggs to identify handlers.

Denmark produced 41.9 million pounds of commercially dressed poultry in 1957, compared with 39.7 million pounds in 1956. Exports totaled 30 million pounds, of which 14.7 million pounds went to West Germany. Shipments to this market gained 65 percent over 1956. An increasing but still insignificant proportion of Danish poultry is exported ready-to-cook.

Increased supplies of eggs and poultry are expected in the European market during the latter part of 1958. With a higher hatching rate in early 1958, Danish egg and poultry production will probably increase later in the year also.

# DENMARK TO OFFER COLD STORAGE BUTTER ON DOMESTIC MARKET

In line with its stepped-up domestic dairy sales campaign (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 10, 1958), the Danish dairy industry plans to release about 16.5 million pounds of cold storage butter for domestic use. Although the price has not been announced, it is expected to be about 6.6 cents per pound less than the present whole-sale price of fresh butter (29.6 cents per pound).

Since mid-1957 Danish butter stocks mounted to between 37.5 and 39.7 million pounds. With no foreseeable price improvement in foreign markets, the dairy industry decided to market part of its current holdings in Denmark at a reduced price.

# VENEZUELA TIGHTENS DRY WHOLE MILK IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

Venezuelan dry whole milk importers are now required to buy 1 unit of domestically produced dry whole milk for every 5 units they import from the United States. Formerly, importers were required to purchase 1 unit of locally produced dry whole milk for every 6 units imported. Dry whole milk imported this way is admitted duty free. The new regulation does not apply to those importers willing to pay duty.

The government's decision, published February 13 in the Gaceta Oficial, appeared to be a compromise between the former 1 to 6 ratio and the 1 to 4 ratio demanded by the Venezuelan Federation of Commerce and Industry and the Venezuelan Milk Council.

# DANISH BUTTER EXPORTS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Danish butter exports continued downward in 1957; at 258 million pounds, they were 3 percent less than in 1956. Although shipments to the United Kingdom were appreciably smaller in 1957 than in 1956, they made up 74 percent of Denmark's total butter exports. West Germany took somewhat larger quantities in 1957, while East Germany, Switzerland, and France took much less. A sizable amount went to the U.S.S.R.

Cheese exports of 138 million pounds were 9 percent above 1956. About 56 percent went to West Germany. Belgium, Italy, and Sweden also were important markets in 1957. The United Kingdom, France, and East Germany made somewhat smaller purchases in 1957 than in 1956.

## FINLAND TO BUILD NEW DRY MILK FACTORY

Construction of Finland's third spray-process dried milk factory is scheduled to begin in April. The plant is expected to begin operations in mid-summer with an hourly output of 880 pounds of dried milk. The new factory will be erected by a dairy cooperative in East Central Finland which now runs a large butter and cheese factory. The skim milk and whey, which was formerly wasted, will now be dried and used for animal feed. This is in contrast to Finland's other two drying factories (See Foreign Crops and Markets, July 22, 1957), which produce dry whole milk primarily for human consumption.

Dried milk is relatively new in Finland. The first drying factory was erected in 1953 and the second began operations in 1956. These two plants have a combined hourly intake of over 19,000 pounds of fluid milk.

Finland has established a small dry whole milk export trade with the Soviet Union, Rumania, and Poland. On February 24 an agreement was signed with the Soviet Union for the delivery of 2.2 million pounds valued at \$0.5 million. The guaranteed f.o.b. prices to Finnish exporters are 42.3 cents per pound for dry whole milk (24 percent butterfat content) and 26.7 cents per pound for nonfat dry milk solids.

## WEST GERMAN EGG IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION RISE

The Federal Republic of Germany had 53.6 million hens in 1957, 3.7 percent more than in 1956. Young laying hens increased by 6.5 percent, reflecting an active market. As the average poultry flock has only 18 chickens, commercial poultry farming is still very limited.

About 520 million dozen hen eggs were produced in 1957. This gain of 7 percent over 1956 was due to an increase in young layers and higher performance per hen (118 eggs a year).

West Germany imported 342.7 million dozen eggs in 1957, 17.9 percent more than in 1956, and about 60 percent of reported total world egg exports. Imports of some 1,500 dozen U. S. eggs were mostly hatching eggs imported under special license. Processed egg imports in 1957, approximately 22.9 million pounds, were down 22 percent from 1956, with Red China furnishing over half of the imports.

Germany's per capita egg consumption rate reached a record high of 198 in 1957, 16 percent above 1956; this was attributed to relatively low prices. As low prices in 1957 reduced Western European flocks, the German egg market is expected to continue active in early 1958.



## FRENCH BUTTER EXPORTS HIGHER

Exports of butter from France during the first 11 months of 1957 totaled 19.6 million pounds, and were more than twice those in the same period of 1956. Major outlets in 1957, compared with 1956, were Italy, 5.5 million pounds (1.5 million pounds a year earlier); Algeria, 3.6 million pounds (2.2 million); West Germany, 2.4 million pounds (0.8 million); and Switzerland, 1.8 million pounds (1.1 million).

Imports of butter in January-November 1957 dropped to 1.4 million pounds from 37.3 million pounds a year earlier.

## U. K. BROILER INDUSTRY GROWS

The British broiler industry is reported to be expanding rapidly. While annual production is now estimated at 20 to 25 million birds, the industry's goal is 100 million birds per year by 1960.

Although U. K. consumption of poultry meat is increasing, it is still low compared to the United States (6.8 pounds per capita and 31.1 pounds, respectively). The broiler industry has the problem of increasing demand in a country which regards poultry as a food for special occasions only. Substantial gains in broiler production would probably stimulate U. K. feed grain imports, which now come largely from the United States.

EGG PRODUCTION INCREASES  
IN CANADA

Laying hens on Canadian farms in December 1957 numbered 32.6 million, 3.5 percent more than in 1956. Egg production totaled 451.3 million dozen, up 11.6 percent from 1956. Average producer price in 1957 was 31.4 cents per dozen; the 1956 price was 38.1 cents. The Canadian support price continues at 38 cents per dozen for Grade A Large delivered at storage.

For several weeks the government has been buying eggs as heavily as last year. Early winter purchases were broken and mostly sold through trade channels. Since the first of the year, most of the eggs have been oiled for storage. Because of a smaller flock replacement hatch, egg marketings are expected to be down moderately in 1958.

Canadian egg exports gained by 5.5 million dozen to 9.3 million dozen in 1957, nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times 1956 exports. Shipments to Venezuela were 7.4 million dozen, an increase of 5.7 million dozen over 1956.

Canada's imports of egg products come mostly from the United States. In the first 9 months of 1957, imports of shell eggs declined 55 percent to 607,000 dozen. Dried eggs declined about 50 percent, dried albumen imports doubled, and frozen eggs were up slightly.

## ISRAEL RESTRICTS DOMESTIC CITRUS CONSUMPTION

Israel's Food Controller is reported to have stopped all supplies of citrus for local markets for a period of 5 weeks beginning February 26. This will give the products industry supplies of fruit to meet export commitments.

## CHILE PROHIBITS SUGAR EXPORTS

Chile has prohibited the export of refined sugar during the first half of 1958. Decree No. 98 of February 17, 1958, prohibits the exportation of refined sugar and other specified commodities and sets export quotas on others for a period of 6 months beginning January 1, 1958.

## JAPAN'S TRADE DEFICIT WITH U. S. OVER \$1 BILLION IN 1957

The United States was Japan's best customer in 1957. Preliminary trade data indicate that exports to the United States totaled \$597 million. This was 10 percent more than 1956 exports, and one-third larger than 1955.

Imports from the United States were nearly 3 times the level of exports. They were valued at \$1,618 million, 52 percent above 1956 and more than double the 1955 level. Thus, Japan's trade deficit with the United States jumped from \$323 million in 1955 and \$521 million in 1956 to \$1,021 million in 1957.

Most of this increase was in larger imports of nonagricultural goods. Imports of agricultural products from the United States through November 1957 totaled \$407 million. This was an increase of only 22 percent over the first 11 months of 1956 compared to an increase of 65 percent for all other commodities.

In past years Japan's trade deficit with the United States has been more than covered by dollars earned in supplying goods and services to the U. S. Armed Forces and other special dollar receipts. Special dollar receipts totaled \$549 million in 1957. This was about \$50 million less than in 1956 and covered only about half of Japan's trade gap with the United States. These dollar earnings are expected to decline even further in 1958 with the withdrawal of many U. S. troops from Japan. Total dollar receipts increased in 1957, but payments rose even faster. As a result, dollar holdings declined from \$1,211 million in December 1956 to about half that level at the end of October 1957. Thus, in 1958 it will be difficult for Japan to maintain last year's level of imports from the United States unless exports to the United States can be substantially increased.

## DAMAGE TO CUBAN SUGAR INDUSTRY FROM REBEL ACTION CONTINUES

About 750 short tons of sugar were destroyed, and other mill property was damaged or removed recently in Cuban rebel action against Central Isabel. Further efforts to hamper Cuban sugar production, particularly in Oriente Province, are expected by local observers.

## THAILAND CONTROLS SUGAR IMPORTS

Sugar is one of several import items subject to Thai Government control. Its importation is prohibited except under special circumstances. Application for import licenses may be made to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs.

## UGANDA EXPERIMENTS IN COCOA GROWING

The Uganda Department of Agriculture is reported to be planning to encourage cocoa planting. It will provide seedlings to farmers who will plant at least 5 closely grouped acres in cocoa and accept government advice on cultivation and fermentation. Seedlings will be distributed in Buganda and Bunyoro, where the climate and soil are said to be suitable.

Experienced cocoa producers have reported optimistically on cocoa-growing prospects in Uganda. There is some belief that the soil is sufficiently fertile, and that cocoa will grow at higher altitudes than has been thought possible. Uncultivated cocoa trees planted perhaps 30 years ago have been found flourishing.

## DEDICATE IVORY COAST COFFEE AND COCOA TREATING PLANT

On January 30, the Compagnie Francaise of the Ivory Coast dedicated a new plant for the treatment of coffee and cocoa. The plant has been operating since late 1957, and is designed to stockpile, clean, sort, and bag 15 tons each of coffee and cocoa per hour. Processing can be sharply increased if necessary. The importance of quality controls is being stressed by the Ivory Coast Government in an effort to increase coffee and cocoa exports to the United States.

## SUGAR AGAIN TAXED IN HONDURAS

On February 13, the Honduran National Congress issued a decree which legalized taxes proposed by the President to provide additional revenue. These taxes included one on the production and consumption of sugar equal to about 75 cents for each 100 pounds.

A similar tax of about one dollar for each 100 pounds had been in effect during the Lozano regime, but was removed by the military junta.



# WEST GERMANY ANNOUNCES IMPORT TENDER FOR CANNED ASPARAGUS

West Germany has announced an import tender for canned asparagus (cut spears, cut stalks, or cuts and tips) from the United States and Canada. Applications by importers may be submitted between March 6 and the date on which the undisclosed value limit has been reached, but not later than December 19, 1958. Last day of customs clearance is December 31.

## CUBA ALLOCATES 1958 CROP BLACKSTRAP FOR LOCAL USE

The Cuban Government has allocated 65 million gallons of 1958-crop blackstrap molasses for domestic consumption. The table below shows the purposes, quantities, and prices involved:

Purpose	Quantity	Price per gallon
	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>52% sugar content</u>
Absolute alcohol.....	11,500,000	4 cents
Alcohol for domestic consumption.....	31,500,000	5 5/8 cents
Alcohol for the production of liquor, pharmaceuticals, perfumes, etc. ....	10,000,000	8 cents
Cattle feed.....	7,000,000	7 5/8 cents
Yeast for human or industrial consumption.....	1,000,000	7 5/8 cents
Reserve for further contingencies.....	4,000,000	-
Total.....	65,000,000	

This allocation is in addition to the 125 million gallons previously sold. The domestic use outlined above differs from last year primarily in the much smaller use of absolute alcohol. In 1957, absolute alcohol was allocated 78,952,193 gallons.

The Molasses Sales Committee of the Cuban Sugar Stabilization Institute has reportedly sold 10 million gallons of 1958 blackstrap molasses to a local producer for the manufacture of alcohol for exports. The sale price was 8.75 cents per gallon of 52 percent sugar content.



# SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION VISITS COLOMBIA

A 2-man trade delegation from the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City spent from January 15 to 27 in Bogota for the announced purpose of reestablishing Colombian-Soviet commercial relations. The local press reported that the Russians were eager to accept Colombian coffee for nearly any product Colombia might need. No announcement has been made as to whether the Russians were successful.

## AUSTRALIAN FLAX FIBER INDUSTRY MAINTAINED

A system of government bounties and price and acreage controls by the Flax Commission is maintaining flax fiber production in Australia. The bounty, assuring payments of the minimum price to growers, will be continued for another 3 years. The commission establishes the minimum price, furnishes seed, and predetermines acreage.

Flax acreage in Australia increased to 9,287 acres in 1957-58 from 4,524 acres in 1955-56. Fiber and tow production in 1957-58 is expected to be larger than the 5.4 million pounds in 1956-57 and the 5.0 million pounds in 1955-56.

Australia imported 2.7 million pounds of flax in 1956-57, compared with 2.1 million in the preceding year. Imports are mostly Belgian fiber. Consumption was 2.3 million pounds in 1955, 2.5 million in 1956, and an estimated 3.1 million in 1957. Current consumption approaches the 3.4-million-pound capacity of the flax mills. Flax is used in domestic manufacture of canvas, cordage, fire hose, twine, ropes, and linen thread.

The downward turn in imported flax prices since the Soviet Union entered the world market left spinners with the problem of paying more for domestic than for imported flax. Despite this situation, the bounty will be continued as encouragement to growers. After this year the rate will be successively lowered if necessary.

The Flax Commission increased the value of its holdings by about 60 percent in 1955-56, and financed the project largely by additional commitments and loans. Even with new machines and modern improvements the mills continued to operate at a net loss. A decision to close and hold in reserve all 7 mills operated by the commission was announced last November and will take effect about mid-1959, after the 1957-58 crop is completed. One or two of the more profitable mills may be taken over by growers or spinners. The cooperative mill in Western Australia and the bounty payments will not be affected.

# DIVERTS EXPORT FRUIT TO CANNING AND DRYING

The January fire which caused over \$25,000,000 damage to the fruit pre-cooling buildings and docks at Capetown, South Africa (Foreign Crops and Markets, February 17, 1958) has raised serious difficulties for the exportation of fresh deciduous and citrus fruits.

However, South African producers and the government, railways, and shipping authorities have worked out a scheme whereby much of the export crop will be shipped. At the same time, some fruit which would normally have been exported will be diverted to the internal markets, canners, and drying plants. Peaches, plums, and Bon Chretien pears will not be considered at all for export this season.

It is now unofficially estimated that the 1958 dried fruit pack will exceed earlier forecasts of 15,000 short tons. The dried fruit pack totaled 9,800 tons in 1957, 12,900 tons in 1956, and 16,800 tons in 1955.

## ARGENTINE DRIED PEACH AND PEAR PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY

The 1958 Argentine pack of dried peaches and pears may amount to only 100 short tons each, compared with 600 and 700 tons, respectively, in 1957. Average production (1951-55) is 1,800 tons for dried peaches and 600 tons for dried pears.

These sharp decreases in dried production are expected despite a considerable increase in the peach crop and a moderate increase in the pear crop. Economic factors are responsible for this shift from drying--particularly the relatively attractive prices offered growers by the canning industry and other outlets. Also, hand labor for the drying process has become more expensive.

### ARGENTINA: Exports of dried peaches and pears, calendar year 1957

Commodity: and Year	Country of destination							
	Finland	West Germany	Nether- lands	Norway	United Kingdom	Brazil	Other	Total
1957								
Peaches..	0	0	0	0	0	1/	2	2
Pears...	101	124	37	28	54	16	3	363

1/ Less than one-half ton.

## ARGENTINE CATTLE NUMBERS DROP

Cattle numbers in Argentina dropped 6 percent from 46,940,280 head on June 30, 1956, to 44,203,425 head on June 30, 1957. Unusually heavy slaughter during 1956 and 1957 and a shift from stock raising to grain farming were primary factors in this reduction. An 8-percent drop in cow numbers plus an unusually high proportion of cows and heifers slaughtered during 1957 indicate a further drop in cattle numbers this year.

## AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES WEAKEN

Wool prices at Australian auctions during the week ending February 28, 1958, declined about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  percent from the previous week. A drop in Japanese support has been chiefly responsible for the sharp decline in prices during the past 2 weeks.

Compared with a year ago, combing wool prices were 26 to 47 cents per pound lower on a clean basis. Market observers contend that future Australian wool prices depend largely on the economic outlook in the United States and Western Europe.

WEST GERMAN IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK AND  
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS TO DROP IN 1958

West German imports of livestock, meat, and meat products are expected to decline during 1958. Large numbers of hogs and cattle on West German farms and expected heavy slaughter in 1958 are expected to reduce meat and meat product prices. (For information on West German livestock numbers, see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 10, 1958.)

Various government support measures failed to prevent a sharp drop in hog prices during 1957. The West German Government purchased 212,000 hogs to support prices. Hog imports were cut from 446,843 head in 1956 to 264,416 for 1957, a decrease of 41 percent. An "Eat More Pork" promotional campaign was initiated in cooperation with the Butchers Association. Farmers were repeatedly warned that overproduction of hogs would cause a sharp drop in prices. Nevertheless, pork production rose 7 percent over 1956, and the average price for 220 to 240-pound slaughter hogs dropped from DM 255.40 (\$60.76 in 1956 to DM 245.80 (\$58.48) in 1957. Hog slaughter during 1958 is expected to rise to about 19.4 million head, 5 percent over 1957.

During 1957, the Import and Storage Agency purchased 54,652 domestic cattle to support prices. Cattle imports were reduced from 364,259 head in 1956 to 294,746 during 1957. Imports of frozen beef for manufacturing were limited to 112 million pounds, a 44 percent reduction from 1956 levels. At present no imports of frozen beef are being made. These measures have had the desired effect of raising cattle prices, which were markedly higher during the last quarter of 1957 than a year earlier. The Ministry of Agriculture predicts a 132-million pound increase in beef production during 1958.



# JAPANESE BEEF IMPORTS TO DROP

Japan's imports of beef and veal, which amounted to about one-fourth of consumption in 1957, are expected to drop in 1958. Domestic beef production was light during 1957 averaging about 13 percent below 1956 as a result of heavy slaughter in 1956. Frozen beef for manufacturing was imported to meet growing Japanese demand. Domestic production is expected to rise in 1958, thus reducing the need for imports.

The Japanese government is encouraging the development of the country's meat marketing system. Seven carcass markets are to be established this year with government subsidies. The first opened at Osaka in January. Three meat processing factories have been established, one each in Takasaki, Chiba, and Sapporo, with a total subsidy of 204 million yen (\$567,000) from yen funds supplied through the Public Law 480 program sales for Japanese currency (see Foreign Crops and Markets, November 11, 1957).

# SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER HEAVIER

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1957 in the Union of South Africa rose slightly from 1956 in spite of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the Transfaal and in Bechuanaland and a subsequent quarantine. Another small increase is expected in 1958.

Sheep slaughter is increasing, and is expected to total over 4 million head during 1958. Hog slaughter was unusually high last year, but controlled prices have been lowered, and 1958 slaughter is expected to be smaller.

Domestic slaughter stocks in 1957 did not meet requirements, and about 247,000 head were imported from neighboring areas. Southwest Africa supplied over 204,000 head. Imports are expected to be about the same in 1958.

LIVESTOCK: Union of South Africa, commercial slaughter, with percent change from previous year, 1953-57

Year	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change
	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
1953.....	1,238	+18	101	-4	629	-14	3,854	+7
1954.....	1,228	-1	105	+4	588	-7	3,643	-6
1955.....	1,105	-10	109	+4	599	+2	3,875	+6
1956.....	1,268	+14	129	+18	694	+16	3,696	-5
1957.....	1,273	-	137	+6	843	+21	3,932	+6



# YUGOSLAV TRADE MISSION VISITS BRAZIL

A Yugoslav trade mission arrived in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on February 10. It cited railway equipment aluminum, zinc, and hops as products Yugoslavia could exchange for such Brazilian products as coffee, cacao beans, carnauba wax, sisal, textiles and yarns, iron ore, and manganese.

The mission invited the directors of the Sao Paulo Federation of Commerce to visit Yugoslavia and consider exhibiting Brazilian products at the international fair to be held at Belgrade this spring.

## LIVESTOCK NUMBERS IN U.S.S.R. RISE SHARPLY

Livestock numbers in the U.S.S.R. rose sharply during 1957, according to the Soviet Government. The U.S.S.R. is making an intensive effort to increase livestock numbers and meat production. Assuming favorable feed grain production, livestock numbers are expected to increase for several years.

An increase in meat production depends primarily on the success of present plans to sharply increase production of feed grains and forage. Forage acreage rose 58 percent from 1953 to 1957, and the area in grain (feed and bread grains) rose 17 percent.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS: U.S.S.R., January 1, 1954-58, with  
percent change from previous year

Year	Total Cattle		Cows		Hogs		Sheep and goats	
	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1954.....	55,800:	-1:	25,200:	+4:	33,300:	+17:	114,000:	+4
1955.....	56,700:	+2:	26,400:	+5:	30,700:	-8:	112,900:	-1
1956.....	58,800:	+4:	27,700:	+5:	34,000:	+11:	116,200:	+3
1957.....	61,400:	+4:	29,000:	+5:	40,800:	+20:	119,700:	+3
1958.....	66,700:	+9:	31,400:	+8:	44,300:	+9:	130,000:	+9

1/ Estimated

Source: V Pomosch Politicheskomu Samoobrazovaniya, February 1958.

# COLOMBIA FREEZES PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS AT NOVEMBER LEVELS

To prevent further rises in food prices, the Colombian Government has "frozen" wholesale prices of certain foodstuffs at November 30, 1957, levels. Any increases must now be justified by written petition to the Ministry of Development.

There have been some complaints from producers that the fixed prices are too low; however, government-established prices are generally being observed. INA (Instituto Nacional de Abastecimientos), a government procurement agency, is authorized to import additional foodstuffs--such as sugar, peas, chickpeas, lard, and barley--to prevent speculation and insure adequate supplies in local markets. INA also is responsible for regulating ceiling prices.

## IRELAND TO EXPORT FEWER CATTLE

Irish cattle exports, at a postwar high during 1957, are expected to decline in 1958. Strong British demand for stocker and feeder cattle, resulting from the U. K. subsidy on fed animals, caused a minor boom in Irish cattle shipments during 1958 and reduced stocks. Recent increases in Irish cow numbers will not yet support such large shipments of stockers and feeders.

Irish beef shipments rose 35 percent during 1957. Over 77.6 million pounds were exported. Although exports to the United Kingdom dropped sharply (from 37.9 million pounds in 1956 to 23.2 million pounds in 1957), exports to other markets more than offset this loss. West Germany and Spain were the largest markets for chilled beef. The United States was the largest importer of frozen beef, taking about 8.4 million pounds.

Exports of sheep and hogs were about the same as in the previous year. However, pork exports rose 78 percent to 40.3 million pounds, while mutton and lamb exports declined about 11 percent to 11.1 million pounds.

## LIVESTOCK: Irish exports, 1955-1957

Year	Cattle			Sheep	Hogs
	Feeder	Other	Total		
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1955.....	470.9	147.8	618.7	161.4	0.9
1956.....	487.6	187.1	674.7	169.8	0.5
1957.....	746.5	184.0	830.5	160.3	0.2

Source: Central Statistics Office.

## COLOMBIA TAKES NEW CREDIT AND IMPORT DEPOSIT MEASURES

Faced with a continually rising certificate rate, and import authorizations in February of over \$1 million per working day, Colombia's Central Bank has taken further measures to restrict credit and increase the financing cost of imports.

The measures included a 2-point increase in banks' reserve requirements; 20 percent reduction of banks' rediscount quotas at the Central Bank; and a 100 percent reserve requirement for all deposits above the level of January 31, 1958.

Import deposits made after February 18 must be made at the average certificate rate over the preceding 2-week period (Ps. 6.00 per U.S. \$1 until February 28) and will not be returned to importers until the imported goods have been in the country for 60 days. Prior import deposits formerly were made at Ps. 5.00 to U.S. \$1.00.

## FREE IMPORT ZONE ESTABLISHED IN NORTHERN CHILE

The Chilean Government has authorized free importation of specified agricultural products for consumption in the northern provinces of Tarapaca, Antofagasta, and the Chanaral area of Atacama, according to a decree of February 3, 1958.

The new zone will be freed of custom duties and taxes normally applied to important Chilean agricultural imports. Free import is authorized for the following: livestock, sheep, and poultry for slaughter; unprocessed or frozen beef, pork, and poultry; fresh milk, butter, lard, edible animal fat and vegetable oil; fresh fruits and vegetables; wheat, rice, sugar, and yerba mate.

Eggs, citrus fruit, condensed and powdered milk, and wheat flour may be imported duty-free into Chile's northern zone for 6-month periods if justified by a special presidential commission. They will be subject to a charge, levied each 6 months, to equalize the price of imports with comparable domestic products.

The new decree represents an attempt to improve supplies and reduce the high cost of food products which arises from limited production in the northern zone of Chile and the high cost of transportation from Central and Southern Chile. The government plans to expand and improve storage and distribution facilities and maintain permanent reserve stocks of staple products (wheat flour, rice, powdered milk, and eggs) to meet normal requirements.

Argentina is expected to receive the greatest trade benefit from the new regulations, although imports from other sources are not restricted. The Antofagasta-Salta railway provides an important rail connection between Northern Argentina and the new Chilean free trade zone.



## EGYPTIAN LIVESTOCK IMPORTS DECLINE

Egyptian livestock imports dipped sharply during 1957. Cattle imports of 55,948 head were down 12 percent from 1956. The Sudan remained the largest source, supplying 92 percent of total cattle imports in 1957. Sheep imports were also down, dropping 50 percent from 1956 to 29,181 head in 1957. Libya supplied about 99 percent of these.

Meat imports more than doubled, increasing from 5.1 million pounds in 1956 to 13.9 pounds in 1957. This rise was due to 7.1 million pounds of frozen beef and 4.6 pounds of frozen mutton imported from Red China. These shipments were partly offset, however, by reduced imports from other sources.

Egypt is eager to increase its low meat consumption which now averages 15 pounds per person per year; but as last year's increase in meat imports was largely offset by the reduction in livestock imports, its effect on meat consumption was slight.

## FRENCH HOG NUMBERS RISE

Hog numbers in France, one of Europe's largest pork producers, were about 4 percent higher in October 1957 than in October 1956. Although slaughter hog prices went up sharply in the last half of the year, domestic pork production declined slightly. Pork production in 1958 is expected to increase.

Numbers of breeding sows and pigs (under 6 months) both rose 5 percent during 1957. Hog and pork imports, up sharply in 1957, made France a net importer for the year. In 1958, imports of hogs and pork are expected to continue relatively large, and exports are expected to remain small.

Cattle numbers continued their steady rise. As this increase was in cow and calf numbers, beef production from domestic stock during 1958 is not expected to rise. Increased imports and reduced exports of cattle and beef may leave more for domestic consumption in 1958.

Sheep and lamb numbers rose about 3 percent, a longstanding trend. Meat production from domestic animals is not expected to satisfy French demand, and large imports of Algerian slaughter stock still will be necessary.

Horse and goat numbers continued to drop. During 1957, France did not export horses for slaughter. Imports increased from 21,626 head in 1956 to 26,280 in 1957. Continued heavy imports of slaughter horses are expected.

France is trying to regain its traditional place as an exporter of livestock and livestock products. Although it has increased its livestock production somewhat, the increase has been slow and has not kept up with rapidly increasing domestic demand. Unless the government intervenes, France will probably continue to be a net importer of livestock and meat for the next few years.



LIVESTOCK: Numbers in France, October 1, 1953-57, with percent change from previous year

Year	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep		Horses		Goats	
	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change
	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
1953	16,889	+4	7,328	+2	7,826	+2	2,277	-2	1,278	-1
1954	17,322	+3	7,570	+3	8,013	+2	2,215	-3	1,257	-2
1955	17,572	+1	7,729	+2	8,216	+3	2,161	-2	1,280	+2
1956	17,792	+1	7,728	-	8,355	+2	2,093	-3	1,275	-
1957	17,928	+1	8,063	+4	8,575	+3	1,986	-5	1,202	-6

During 1957, France imported about 3.8 million pounds of U. S. variety meats, mostly liver. There is a strong demand for variety meats in France, but imports from the United States are restricted to conserve dollar exchange.

#### ANTARCTIC WHALE CATCH SLOW IN 1957-58

The rate of catching in the current Antarctic whaling season has been slower than last season and forecasts are that the season will end March 22, 6 days later than the season ended in 1957. As of February 22, 10,227 blue whale units had been taken, compared with 11,575 at the end of the corresponding period last season.

WHALE OIL: Production by country in the Antarctic through February 15, 1956-57 and 1957-58

Country	Production	
	1956-57	1957-58
	Long tons	Long tons
Norway.....	89,000	62,000
Japan 2/.....	50,000	58,000
United Kingdom.....	42,000	35,000
Netherlands.....	8,600	9,600
U.S.S.R.....	3/	3/
Total.....	189,600	164,600

1/ Preliminary estimates. 2/ Includes production of ex-"Abraham Larsen," which was under flag of the Union of South Africa in 1956. 3/ Not available.

## INDIA RELEASES PEANUT OILCAKE FOR EXPORT

The Government of India, on February 8, 1958, announced an export quota of 20,000 long tons of peanut oilcake (expeller variety) (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 24, 1958, and February 10, 1958, for other oilcake export quotas). Any exporter who shipped peanut oilcake in any of the preceding 3 calendar years will be eligible for export allocations.

## SEVERE DROUGHT HURTS PHILIPPINE COCONUTS

A severe drought in certain regions of Quezon and Laguna on Luzon Island of the Philippine Republic threatens to decrease coconut and other crops this year. This part of southern Luzon is the largest single coconut area in the world and contains about 50 million of the Philippines' 140 million coconut-producing trees. Recorded rainfall in the affected area was 29 inches lower in 1957 than that in 1956.

Effects of the drought were felt as early as December 1957, when harvested coconuts were smaller and less meaty than those of previous years. Average weight per 1,000 coconuts harvested in December 1957 was 719 kilos (1,585 pounds), compared with a monthly average of 803 kilos (1,770 pounds) during the previous 9 years.

## PACIFIC ISLANDS COPRA ENTERS WORLD MARKET

On January 1, 1958, the output of copra from the Pacific Islands of Papua, New Guinea, the Solomons, Gilbert and Ellice, Fiji, Western Samoa, and Tonga became available on the world market, according to press reports. A 9-year old contract between the various islands and the British Ministry of Food, whereby the Ministry purchased the whole of the available copra at fixed prices, expired December 31, 1957.

Arrangements have been made--in most cases through local marketing boards--to sell the copra to private concerns in Europe and Australia. Copra shipped to Europe will be sold at a price fixed each month on the basis of Philippine copra prices at European ports. However, these arrangements are for 1958 only. Probable destinations of copra exports from the various islands--based on the agreements--are:

<u>Islands</u>	<u>Destinations</u>
New Guinea and Papua	Europe and Australia
Solomons, Gilbert and Ellice	Total to Europe
Fiji	No agreements
Tonga:	
Vavau and Haapi	Europe
Tongatabu	No agreements
Western Samoa	Europe

COLOMBIAN COFFEE FEDERATION  
ESTABLISHES MINIMUM PRICE

The Colombian National Federation of Coffee Growers and the National Coffee Exporters Association have entered into an agreement to establish a minimum base price of  $55\frac{1}{4}$  U. S. cents per pound for Colombian coffee delivered New York port. Exporters selling below the established price will be fined and possibly will be refused further export permits. The agreement was signed by all major exporters and is expected to be backed by a decree of the military junta.

The debt of the National Federation of Coffee Growers to the Banco de la Republica for purchases of coffee under the retention plan was officially about 400 million pesos (\$60 million) at the end of February 1958. These purchases are estimated at a minimum of 1.9 million bags. The rate of purchase has declined recently as old-crop coffee has moved into the market pending the start of the March-June harvest.

MEXICO HAS SMALLER RICE  
CROP THAN EXPECTED

Mexico's rice crop of 1957-58 was reduced by adverse weather in central areas of the country. Overall yields per acre were above average, but were not so high as in 1956-57. Poor yields in Veracruz were partly offset by unusually high yields in the northern State of Sinaloa, which became the leading rice-producing State.

Mexico's 1957-58 harvest is now estimated at 530 million pounds of rough rice, compared with the previous estimate of 573 million pounds. The 1956-57 rice crop has been revised downward to 520 million pounds, 20 million pounds below the previous estimate. Rice acreage in 1957-58 is still estimated at 311,000 acres, an increase of 27,000 acres over the year before.

Veracruz was the largest rice-producing State in 1955 and 1956. In 1957, heavy rains in the spring and early summer delayed planting, and extreme drought during the growing season damaged the crop severely. Therefore, although production was expected to be 155 million pounds (rough), only 65 million pounds were harvested. Contrary to the practice in other States of Mexico, most of the rice grown in Veracruz is not irrigated. The crop is planted at the beginning of the rainy season and harvested in the fall.

Rice exports in 1957 amounted to 12,271,000 pounds of milled rice, a significant increase over exports in the preceding year, but considerably below the expectations of rice growers. Unfavorable prices in the world market are given as the reason why exports were not as large as hoped for. Sinaloa growers now have permission to export 10,000 tons of milled rice during 1958.



#### PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC BUYS RICE FROM VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

The Philippine Republic recently signed a contract with Vietnam for 23,000 metric tons of rice to be imported at a c.&f. value of \$125 per ton (\$5.67 per 100 pounds). The National Rice and Corn Corporation has been authorized to buy an additional 7,000 tons from Vietnam at the same terms. A contract has also been announced for a 12,000 ton-purchase from Cambodia at a c.&f. value of \$124 per ton (\$5.62 per 100 pounds).

For the last 3 years Philippine importers have tried to barter copra for rice from Asia, but the only barter arrangement concluded was with Portugal in 1957, when sugar was exchanged for 10,000 tons of rice.

#### PAKISTAN TO EXPORT HIGH QUALITY RICE

The Government of Pakistan plans to export about 25,000 long tons of Basmati rice, a fine, long-grain variety. Private shippers have accepted tenders for 5,000 tons at an average price of £ 7<sup>4</sup> sterling per long ton (\$9.25 per 100 pounds). Tenders are now being invited for 20,000 tons.

Prices as high as £78 sterling per long ton (\$9.75 per 100 pounds) f.o.b. have been offered by a Middle East country. There are indications that still higher prices might be obtained.

Basmati rice is exported to supplement Pakistan's foreign exchange resources. For every ton exported, substantially more wheat and lower-quality rice can be imported for consumption in East Pakistan. Joshi and Kangi varieties are being procured from the Hyderabad and Khaipur Divisions for shipment to East Pakistan. Approximately 72,000 tons are now en route.

#### U. S. EDIBLE OIL EXPORTS DOWN 40 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

United States exports of cottonseed and soybean oils in October-January 1957-58, preliminarily estimated by the Census Bureau at 295 million pounds, were about 40 percent below exports in the first 4 months of the previous marketing year.

Estimated exports of cottonseed oil in January 1958 were 60 percent below those of January 1957 and 65 percent below December 1957 shipments. October-January estimated exports of 145.2 million pounds were about one-fourth less than October-January 1956-57 shipments.



Estimated soybean oil exports in January were about 45 percent below those of January 1957 but about 8 percent above December 1957 exports. Cumulative October-January shipments are estimated at 150 million pounds, less than half those of the first 4 months of the previous marketing year.

Estimated exports of cake and meal in January were one-third more than December 1957 shipments but one-third below those of January 1957. Estimated October-January exports of 145,000 tons were slightly more than half those of the comparable period last marketing year.

Inspections of soybeans for export from October through the week ended January 31 totaled 46.8 million bushels, compared with 46.4 million bushels inspected from October through February 1 last marketing year. (As of more recent date, inspections through February 28, 1958, were about 50.8 million bushels, approximately equal those for the same period a year earlier.)

COTTONSEED OIL, SOYBEAN OIL, OILCAKES AND MEALS: U. S. preliminary estimates of exports in January 1958 and October-January 1957-58, and actual exports January 1957 and October-January 1956-57

Commodity	January		October-January	
	1957	1958 Preliminary	1956-57	1957-58 Preliminary
	Million pounds		Million pounds	
Cottonseed oil, refined....	5.9	.1	39.2	19.7
Cottonseed oil, refined and further processed....	5.3	.4	8.9	13.1
Cottonseed oil, crude.....	40.2	20.6	139.4	112.4
Total cottonseed oil....	51.4	21.1	187.5	145.2
Soybean oil, refined.....	8.9	27.8	22.6	51.5
Soybean oil, refined and further processed.....	39.4	11.5	169.7	43.2
Soybean oil, crude.....	43.8	12.3	120.4	55.2
Total soybean oil.....	92.1	51.6	312.7	149.9
Total cottonseed and soybean oil.....	143.5	72.7	500.2	295.1
	Thousand short tons		Thousand short tons	
Cottonseed cake and meal...	2.6	.1	25.3	5.9
Linseed cake and meal.....	6.9	(1/)	30.7	5.7
Soybean cake and meal.....	49.6	39.1	227.0	133.4
Total cake and meal...	59.1	39.2	283.0	145.0

1/ Less than 50 short tons.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

U. S. IMPORTS OF OLIVE OIL  
UP IN 1957

Olive oil imports into the United States in 1957 increased 6 percent from the previous year but were one-sixth less than average imports during 1950-54.

OLIVE OIL, EDIBLE AND INEDIBLE: U. S. imports by country of origin, averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-57

Country of origin	Average		1955	1956 1/	1957 1/
	1935-39	1950-54			
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
<b>Edible oil:</b>					
Algeria.....	126	380	1,972	44	396
Argentina.....	2/	---	---	779	1,117
France.....	2,432	849	211	172	872
Greece.....	2,452	485	607	43	2,442
Italy.....	15,766	7,921	7,363	5,305	7,141
Morocco.....	3	57	1,730	22	1,272
Portugal.....	183	55	52	9	57
Spain.....	8,787	15,279	10,458	15,637	4,956
Syria and Lebanon.....	18	18	---	---	34
Tunisia.....	1,600	2,028	3,771	164	5,626
Turkey.....	---	34	---	---	3
Others.....	38	56	51	177	449
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>31,405</b>	<b>27,162</b>	<b>26,215</b>	<b>22,352</b>	<b>24,365</b>
<b>Inedible oil:</b>					
Algeria.....	3,996	4	80	---	---
Argentina.....	---	---	---	9	16
France.....	51	14	---	---	6
Greece.....	5,505	13	---	6	5
Italy.....	1,868	36	---	---	---
Morocco.....	37	16	---	---	---
Portugal.....	1,930	1,664	1,022	496	---
Spain.....	2,144	64	54	56	55
Syria and Lebanon.....	134	17	22	---	---
Tunisia.....	1,975	228	14	2	32
Turkey.....	37	---	---	---	---
Others.....	47	---	---	---	5
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>17,724</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Total edible and inedible</b>	<b>49,129</b>	<b>29,218</b>	<b>27,407</b>	<b>22,921</b>	<b>24,484</b>

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than 0.5 ton.

Compiled from official records of the Department of Commerce.

The pattern of U. S. imports of olive oil changed markedly in 1957. Imports of edible olive oil from Spain, the major supplier from 1950 through 1956, were less than one-third those in 1956, as Spanish prices for bulk olive oil were not competitive with prices of oil from other Mediterranean countries. Exports of Spanish olive oil were embargoed in mid-November. In late February, the purchase of olive oil for export was authorized, but no export licenses have yet been issued.

Purchases from other countries increased significantly. Italy became the major U. S. supplier of edible olive oil, accounting for almost one-third of the total. Tunisia supplied almost one-fourth.

Only 119 tons of inedible olive oil were imported in 1957.

#### U. S. COTTON LINTERS EXPORTS UP IN DECEMBER

U. S. exports of cotton linters, mostly chemical qualities, were 31,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during December 1957, up 55 percent from exports of 20,000 bales in November, although considerably below exports of 61,000 bales in December 1956. Exports during August-December 1957 were 118,000 bales, or 28 percent below exports of 161,000 bales in August-December 1956.

Principal destinations of linters exports in August-December 1957, with comparable 1956 figures in parentheses, were: West Germany 43,000 bales (64,000); Netherlands 29,000 (26,000); United Kingdom 19,000 (28,000); Canada 12,000 (15,000); France 9,000 (11,000); and Japan 5,000 (13,000).

#### U. S. COTTON IMPORTS HIGHER

U. S. imports of cotton (for consumption) were 37,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in December 1957, compared with imports of 28,000 bales in November and 10,000 bales in December 1956. Imports during August-December 1957 were 119,000 bales -- more than 3 times the 39,000 bales imported during the comparable period of 1956.

Most of the increase was in imports from Mexico which totaled 70,000 bales in August-December 1957, against 18,000 bales in the same period a year earlier. Of the 70,000-bale imports, 18,000 came in under the country quota for upland type (cotton under 1-1/8 inches), and 52,000 bales were imported under the global quota for long staple (cotton 1-1/8 inches or more).

The U. S. import quota for long staple cotton for the current quota year, beginning August 1, 1957, has been filled. The Bureau of Customs reports that the global quota of 45.7 million pounds (about 95,000 bales of 500 pounds gross) of cotton stapling 1-1/8 inches and longer was fully subscribed on December 30, 1957.

(Continued on following page)



Mexican cotton stapling 1-1/8 inches and longer comprised 54 percent of total U. S. imports under the 1957-58 long staple quota. Egyptian cotton, which heretofore comprised the bulk of the cotton entered under the long-staple quota, accounted for 31 percent.

COTTON: U. S. imports by country of origin, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1955 and 1956, and August-December 1956 and 1957  
(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1					
	Average		1955	1956	August-December	
	1935-39	1945-49			1956	1957
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Brazil.....	3	1	1	2	2	1
China.....	1/ 31	2/	0	0	0	0
Egypt.....	63	103	60	36	12	29
India.....	3/ 67	3/ 103	6	4	1	2/
Mexico.....	23	19	22	22	18	70
Pakistan.....	3/	4/ 12	22	16	1	5
Peru.....	1	23	23	8	6	13
Sudan.....	5/	1/ 4	2	2/	2/	2/
USSR.....	6/ 5	4/ 1	1	0	0	0
Other countries.....	0	0	2/	1	0	1
Total 7/.....	8/ 185	8/ 260	137	89	40	119

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Pakistan included with India prior to partition in 1947. 4/ 3-year average. 5/ Included with Egypt prior to 1942. 6/ 2-year average. 7/ Includes small quantities reexported each year. 8/ Total does not add due to partial averages.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

#### U.S. COTTON LINTERS IMPORTS UP IN DECEMBER

U. S. imports of cotton linters, mostly felting qualities, were 17,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in December 1957, up 31 percent from imports of 13,000 bales in November 1957 and December 1956. Imports during August-December 1957 were 56,000 bales, compared with 72,000 bales imported in August-December 1956.

Principal sources of linters imports in August-December 1957, with comparable 1956 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 42,000 bales (55,000); U.S.S.R. 4,000 (13,000); Belgium 2,000 (108); Iran 2,000 (0); El Salvador 2,000 (879); and Turkey 1,000 (0).



## ETHIOPIA ESTABLISHES NATIONAL COFFEE BOARD

A National Coffee Board recently established in Ethiopia has as its objectives (a) improving the quality of Ethiopian coffee for export, (b) increasing production of first-quality coffee, and (c) enforcing the provisions of the Coffee (cleaning and grading) Proclamation of 1952 and related legislation.

The board is to recommend legislation to improve the quality of coffee and publish market information and statistics on coffee. It has corporate status with the right to construct, operate, or lease warehouses, coffee-processing and cleaning plants and experiment stations, and also to establish and operate markets and set up a Coffee Exchange at Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia is improving its coffee culture and preparation. In the third year of the present Agricultural Education, Research and Extension Project 615,000 high-quality coffee seedlings were distributed. Greater distribution is expected, as these seedlings have about a 90-percent survival rate compared with 30 to 40 percent for forest seedlings.

In addition, 150 coffee-processing units using the wet method have been put into use to demonstrate the advantages of this method, and 45 trained extension workers aid in carrying out this program. These washed coffees sell for 30 to 50 percent more than coffees prepared by previous methods. It is estimated that 1,500 tons (25,000 bags) of washed coffee were processed by this method during the last harvesting season, compared with 300 tons (5,000 bags) in the previous season.

## NORTH AMERICAN APPLE EXPORTS DOUBLE THOSE OF LAST YEAR

The United States exported 2,185,602 boxes of apples during the 6-month July-December period of 1957, compared with 994,182 during the corresponding period of 1956. The large export volume was due primarily to frost damage last spring to the Western European apple crop.

The importance of the Western European market is illustrated by the fact that in the current marketing year which began July 1, 1957, it has imported 1,170,000 boxes of U.S. apples, or 53 percent of total U.S. apple exports--in contrast to 162,000 boxes, or 16 percent of total U.S. apple exports a year ago.

Canada has benefited almost to the same extent as the United States. Canadian apple exports from July 1, 1957, through February 7, 1958, were 2,434,754 bushels, compared with 1,206,460 a year earlier.

The declared value of U.S. apples this year has been \$3.47 a box, compared with \$4.19 a year before.

U. S. PALM OIL IMPORTS DROP SHARPLY;  
PALM KERNEL OIL IMPORTS UP

Imports of palm oil into the United States in 1957 declined sharply for the third successive year to 9,320 tons, representing less than one-third the average quantity imported during 1950-54 and only 6 percent of the prewar takings. About 98 percent of the total came from the Belgian Congo, the major U. S. supplier in the postwar period.

PALM OIL AND PALM KERNEL OIL: United States imports by country of origin, averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-57

Country of origin	Average		1955	1956 <u>1/</u>	1957 <u>1/</u>
	1935-39	1950-54			
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Palm oil:					
Canada.....	1,403	1	---	2	1
Mexico.....	---	---	---	92	---
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	243	---	---	38	88
Netherlands.....	1,212	194	---	---	---
United Kingdom.....	304	---	780	---	---
Belgian Congo.....	20,111	21,134	17,426	13,243	9,097
French Africa.....	521	17	---	---	---
Liberia.....	---	141	---	---	---
Nigeria.....	16,038	1,943	552	---	---
Portuguese Africa.....	116	23	---	---	---
Indonesia.....	119,063	7,115	2,522	738	132
Malaya.....	1,302	87	840	17	1
Others.....	428	415	---	---	1
Total.....	160,741	31,070	22,120	14,130	9,320
Palm kernel oil <u>2/</u> :					
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	34	93	331	---	---
Denmark.....	3,638	---	---	19	---
Germany, West <u>3/</u> .....	9,762	498	---	---	---
Netherlands.....	6,213	2,917	3,839	919	357
United Kingdom.....	2,627	6,230	2,705	309	2,247
Belgian Congo.....	---	3,541	16,034	19,095	19,947
Australia.....	---	354	---	---	---
Others.....	13	232	---	---	---
Total.....	22,287	13,865	22,909	20,342	22,551

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Crude and refined combined as such. 3/ Total Germany.

Compiled from official records of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

U. S. imports of palm kernel oil increased 10 percent from 1956, were nearly two-thirds larger than the 1950-54 average, and were up slightly from the prewar average. The Belgian Congo also supplies most of U. S. kernel oil purchases, accounting for nearly 90 percent of the 22,551 tons imported in 1957.

#### DUTCH IMPORT LESS COTTON

Imports of cotton into the Netherlands during the first 4 months (August-November) of the 1957-58 marketing season were 79,000 bales (500 pounds gross), down 14 percent from imports of 92,000 bales in August-November 1956. Imports of U. S. cotton were 24,000 bales, or 30 percent of the total imports, compared with 36,000 bales, or 39 percent of the total during August-November 1956.

Cotton imports from major sources during August-November 1957, with comparable 1956 figures in parentheses, were: United States 24,000 bales (36,000); Mexico 20,000 (21,000); Belgian Congo 12,000 (12,000); Peru 8,000 (7,000); Nicaragua 6,000 (2,000); El Salvador 3,000 (542); Egypt 2,000 (3,000); Guatemala 1,000 (0); and India 1,000 (1,000).

Imports of 380,000 bales of cotton into the Netherlands during the August-July 1956-57 year were the largest on record, exceeding by 14 percent the 335,000 bales imported during 1955-56. The U. S. share of these imports increased sharply to 192,000 bales, or 51 percent of the total, compared with only 10,000 bales, or 3 percent of the total in 1955-56. The sharp increase in imports from the United States in 1956-57 was attributed largely to the competitive price level of cotton available from stocks of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Increased quantities were also imported from Belgian Congo, Uganda, Sudan, Nigeria, and Paraguay.

Cotton imports from Mexico during 1956-57 were 79,000 bales, down sharply from imports of 175,000 bales in 1955-56. Decreased quantities were also imported from Peru, Nicaragua, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Iraq, and El Salvador.

Cotton consumption in the Netherlands rose to a record level of 340,000 bales in August-July 1956-57, compared with 335,000 bales consumed in 1955-56. Consumption during the first 2 months (August-September) of the 1957-58 season amounted to 55,000 bales, an increase of about 2 percent over the comparable period in 1956-57. However, the outlook for the entire 1957-58 season is generally considered less favorable than in 1956-57. Textile distributors at the wholesale and retail levels have large inventories on hand, and commercial interest rates have increased since September 1957. Also, new outlets will have to be sought for textiles normally exported to Indonesia, due to recent developments in Dutch-Indonesian relations.

Cotton mill stocks were estimated at 103,000 bales on September 30, 14 percent below the 120,000 bales held on August 1, 1957.



## IRAQI DATE ESTIMATE RAISED

The 1957 Iraqi date crop is now estimated at 270,000 short tons, 25,000 tons more than estimated earlier. Of particular interest is an increase of 5,000 tons in the estimated production of Hillawi dates, the most favored variety in the United States and Europe. The revised 1957 estimate still represents one of the smallest crops in recent years. The last year of normal production was 1955.

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
	- - - - - <u>Short tons</u> - - - - -		
Basra area	128,000	91,000	72,000
Central area	<u>292,000</u>	<u>187,000</u>	<u>198,000</u>
Total	420,000	278,000	270,000

By varieties, 1957 Basra production (in short tons) was: Hillawis--19,000; Sayers--31,000; Khadrawis--4,000; Zahidis--9,000; other varieties--9,000.

The Basra crop was disposed of by early February; 65,000 tons were exported, and the other 7,000 consumed locally. Total internal utilization of the Iraqi crop--Basra and Central areas combined--is estimated at 44,000 tons for edible consumption and 33,000 tons for industrial uses.

Stocks of Central area dates reportedly totaled 70,000 tons in early February--9,000 tons of uncommitted Zahidis in Basra warehouses, 11,000 tons still on farms, and 50,000 tons in Central area warehouses.

Exports of edible-grade dates for the period September 1 to February 6, 1956-57 and 1957-58 were:

	<u>1956-57</u>	<u>1957-58</u>
	- - <u>Short tons</u> - - -	
From Basra area:		
Hillawi	18,111	17,750
Khadrawi	3,415	2,631
Sayer	48,671	28,132
Zahidi	16,409	8,986
Other varieties	5,688	7,509
Total	<u>92,294</u>	<u>65,008</u>
From Central area:		
Zahidi	<u>60,757</u>	<u>103,749</u>
Grand total	153,051	168,757

Iraqi date exports to the United States in the period September 1, 1957, to January 31, 1958, amounted to 18,730 tons.



European and American demand has been strong, and competition to fill orders has held prices well above official Monopoly offerings despite an upward adjustment of Monopoly prices. Hillawi prices have not gone below 2.3 cents per pound although the Monopoly adjusted its price to 2.0 cents. Early in the season Hillawis sold for 2.7 cents. Sayers were 2.5 cents then, but receded to 2.2 cents; in mid-February they were bringing 2.3 cents while the Monopoly's adjusted price was only 1.6 cents.

#### SPAIN PRODUCES LESS COTTON IN 1957-58

Spain's cotton production in the August-July 1957-58 marketing season is now estimated at 170,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This is 13 percent less than the earlier estimate of 195,000 bales, and 24 percent below the record of 223,000 bales in 1956-57. Cotton acreage decreased about 14 percent -- 425,000 acres this year, compared with 494,000 acres in 1956-57. The decrease is attributed to late spring rains in certain areas at planting time, and to competition from sugar beets and other intensive crops.

About 94 percent of the 1957-58 crop is American upland-type cotton. Approximately half of the upland acreage is irrigated. The balance of the crop is Egyptian-type cotton, all produced under irrigation. Weather was favorable during the 1957-58 harvesting season, and a good portion of the crop is reported to be fairly high in quality.

Spain's cotton consumption in August-October 1957 was 88,000 bales, down 10 percent from the 98,000 used during the comparable period of 1956-57. The decrease in consumption is said to have been due to rationing of cotton to mills during part of the August-October period.

Cotton imports into Spain during August-December 1957 were 45,000 bales, 44 percent below imports of 81,000 bales in the comparable period of 1956. The decreased imports reflect Spain's shortage of foreign exchange. Imports from the United States were only 9,000 bales during August-December 1957, compared with 72,000 bales for the same period a year earlier. Quantities imported from major sources in August-December 1957, with comparable 1956 figures in parentheses, were: Brazil 18,000 bales (6,000); United States 9,000 (72,000); Egypt 8,000 (0); Mexico 6,000 (0); and Greece 4,000 (0).

Most of the 8,000 bales imported from Egypt in August-December was extra long staple cotton, financed under Spanish-Egyptian trade agreements. The most recent of these agreements, signed January 16, 1958, provides for exchange of \$14 million worth of Spanish wheat flour for Egyptian cotton.

Cotton stocks on October 31, 1957, were estimated at 101,000 bales, down 30 percent from stocks of 144,000 bales on August 1, 1957. Cotton from the 1957-58 crop was expected to begin reaching the mills in volume during early November.

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32

Foreign Crops and Markets

Vol. 76, No. 11

INDIA AUTHORIZES COTTON FUTURES  
TRADING AT AKOLA AND AHMEDABAD

The Government of India Forward Markets Commission has permitted the Madhya Pradesh Commercial Exchange, Limited, at Akola, and the Western India Cotton Exchange, Limited, at Ahmedabad to start futures trading in cotton. The Akola market opened on February 10, 1958, and the Ahmedabad market opened on February 21, 1958.

The 2 markets are initially recognized for 3 years and will provide hedging facilities to local interests for locally grown varieties of cotton. The basis of the Trading Contract at Akola is machine-ginned Berar Jarilla, Fine, 23/32 inch staple, and the basis at Ahmedabad is machine-ginned Kalyon, Fine, 25/32 inch staple.

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